

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 to read as follows:

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A3  
1            1. (Amended) An electromechanical switch incorporating in its switch housing  
2            at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically  
3            conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces  
4            away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5)  
5            which also encloses at least [the] a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated  
6            with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein  
7            said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1)  
8            and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the  
9            contact surfaces (2).

1            2. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm  
2            (5) comprises a thermoplastic.

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A4  
1            4. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch housing (4;  
2            6) consists of two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and  
3            a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a part of the switching element  
4            (1) with a diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are preferably  
5            connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

1           5. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switching element  
2           (1) is pin-shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end (1'), which makes  
3           contact with the contact surfaces (2) is preferably rounded into a convex tip.

1           6. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein, in the area where it  
2           rests against the switching element (1) and/or in the transitional area between the  
3           switching element (1) and its connection to the switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5)  
4           is provided on its inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

1           7. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switching element  
2           (1) comprises a metal.

1           8. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein three or four contact  
2           surfaces (2) are associated with one switching element (1).

1           9. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces (2)  
2           comprise contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are  
3           hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1           10. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch housing or  
2           the switch-housing sections (4; 6) comprise a 2-component injection-molded plastic  
3           material.

Please add the following new claim to the application:

12. (New) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.